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Approved For Release 2000/08/17 : CIA-RDP84-00951R000200200005-5

24 October 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Walter Pforzheimer
OCR Member DDI Historical Board

SUBJECT: Machine Support Division History

The Machine Support Division was first organized as the Central Index, Reference Center, Office of Reports and Estimates, in March 1947. The primary mission of the Division at that time was to serve as the Central Intelligence Agency's memory unit which would maintain indexes on all available reports and other documents of a foreign intelligence nature and to provide service from these indexes.

The first steps in fulfilling this memory function were taken when punch card methods utilizing conventional IBM equipment together with especially designed and constructed (Finch Telecommunication equipment) Intellofax machines were successfully applied to the problem.

Over the years with the increase in volume of documents received and the emergence of unique requirements in certain areas, the need for more versatile and flexible methods and for machines better adapted or especially designed for information searching became apparent. Therefore, it was in this area the Division spent a considerable amount of its effort in encouraging R & D by industry and the in-house design and construction of prototype equipment. Since the Division History mainly evolves around this type of operation and in several cases the Division made major contribution to industry in the development of some of the more prominent office copying and information handling equipment, it is suggested the history of the Division be written along these lines.

For your consideration I am listing below some of the historical highlights on the activities of the Division:

- 25X1A LIST OF HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS: 25X1A
- 25X1A 1. [REDACTED]; This equipment, developed in 1948 by [REDACTED]
[REDACTED], partially at the Division request, was designed specifically for making 1 to 1 reproductions to be used throughout the Agency. 25X1A
- 25X1A 2. [REDACTED] developed in 1950 by the [REDACTED] was a direct result of the Division interest in a process that had the ability to transfer an image to almost any type of paper or offset master.

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25X1A 3. Research and Development contract; (1947 - 1950) between
25X1A and [REDACTED] 25X1A
25X1A 4. Copymaker Model [REDACTED], developed in 1951 by the [REDACTED]
was designed and built according to the Division specification.
25X1A 5. 1951 through 1954 a complete family of microfilm equipment was
designed and constructed for the Division by [REDACTED]
25X1A 6. 1954 through 1960: The Minicard equipment developed by [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] was a joint R & D contract between [REDACTED]
25X1A [REDACTED] 25X1A 25X1A
25X1A 7. 1961: [REDACTED] built three "DARE" machines
for our Intellofax system and Biographic Register Program.
25X1A 25X1A
25X1A 8. 1962: [REDACTED], at our request, designed and built
a [REDACTED] to reproduce from the DARE Intellofax card a full size
9 x 14 Xerographic print.
25X1A [REDACTED] who is now retired and was Chief of the Division
25X1A during it's infancy or [REDACTED] of NPIC, who can retire within
the next year, would possibly be interested in compiling and writing the
history of the Division.

25X1A [REDACTED]

Chief, Machine Support Division

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